



AHIF College Student Foreign Policy Trip DC • Greece • Cyprus - 2018



Overview

The *AHIF College Student Foreign Policy Study Trip to Greece and Cyprus* is a leading travel abroad program aimed to help Greek and Cypriot American college students better understand the importance of the relationships between Greece, Cyprus and the United States and foreign policy issues important to the Greek American community.

The *AHIF College Student Foreign Policy Study Trip to Greece and Cyprus* aimed to help Greek and Cypriot American college students better understand the core foreign policy issues important to the Greek American community. During the eighteen-day program, the students will have the opportunity to experience firsthand experience about the foreign policy issues affecting Greece and Cyprus, their relations with the U.S., and the interests of the U.S. in the region. Prior to their departure, students will meet in Washington, DC where they will attend meetings and briefings with officials at Greek and Cypriot embassies, the State Department, Congress and think-tanks.

While in Greece and Cyprus the students will attend meetings or briefings held at the U.S. embassies, officials from various foreign ministries, parliament members, religious leaders, think-tank organizations, and members of academia and the private sector of both countries. In Cyprus, the group will visit the Turkish-occupied area, receive a guided tour of old Nicosia Airport-UNFICYP in the demilitarized zone, and take a day trip to Paphos and Ayia Napa. While in Greece, the students will take a day-trip to visit the Naval Support Activity (NSA) Souda Bay, Crete, to tour the NATO Missile Firing Installation (NAMFI), take a day trip on a private boat and an exclusive tour of the Karaiskakis Stadium, the home stadium of Olympiacos FC.

Academic Credit

Although the AHIF does not have the capacity to provide academic credit, students can enhance their degree by doing so independently through their universities. Past trip participants have met with their academic advisors to obtain course equivalency approvals for major, minor, general education or other degree requirements as well as scholarships or funding possibilities provided through the university. We will be happy to complete any forms necessary to assist you with this process.

Eligibility

The program is open to undergraduate students (rising sophomores), to graduate students with a full-time enrollment status and a minimum 3.00 cumulative GPA. Students with a keen interest in US-Greek-Cyprus relations and policy challenges facing Greece and Cyprus will benefit from this program. Program size is limited, and participation is contingent upon acceptance by the program review committee. Our program operates on a rolling admission basis beginning in January; priority is given to applications received by March 31st, afterward in a space-available basis.

Cost and Accommodations:

Hotel accommodations (*McLean Tyson's Corner Hilton, McLean, Virginia; Hilton Cyprus, Nicosia, Cyprus & Grande Bretagne, Athens, Greece*) as well as most meals in Washington, DC, Greece, and Cyprus and transportation to and from the hotels, airport, excursions and meetings will be covered by the AHIF. Upon acceptance to the program, students will be responsible for purchasing their airline tickets. The approximate cost for the round trip ticket from Washington, DC-Larnaca-Athens-US is \$2,400. To ensure that the group travels together, ALL airline tickets must be purchased through Konstantinos Georgiadis, Amphitriion Holidays, 301-545-0999, aleko@amphitriion.com. Those who wish to extend their stay in Greece should note that the cost for an extended trip will be higher.



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APPLICATION PROCESS

Application reviews begins in January; priority is given to applications received by March 31, afterward in a **space-available basis**. All applicants must submit the following items *together* in one email/package by March 31:

1. **APPLICATION** All application materials are to be submitted *together* in one package by March 31. **ALL THREE** – participant and both parents/guardians– need to **sign and initial** the waiver and liability sections of the *Application* and *Extended Stay* forms.
2. **DEPOSIT** A \$500 refundable deposit is due at the time of application payable to AHIF. Once admitted to the program the \$500 deposit will be processed. The deposit will be returned in September after the evaluation form and 650-word essay have been received. **No refunds will be given if you cancel after May 15.**
3. **RESUMÉ** Highlight your education, research, work experiences, and your involvement in the Greek American community.
4. **TRANSCRIPTS** Official transcripts should be mailed or emailed (yolap@aheworld.org).
5. **REFERENCES** Two letters of recommendation from professors, workplace, community or church.
6. **HEADSHOT** A **recent high-resolution color headshot (at least 300 dpi in jpg)**.
7. **INSURANCE** Submit a photocopy of your health insurance card (front/back).
8. **PASSPORT** Your passport number, country issued, and the expiration date is needed to book your flights and for entry into federal buildings in the U.S., Nicosia and Athens. Students with no/expired passports should not wait until they have been accepted to the program to apply for one or to renew their passports.

SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION

- Email: In a single e-mail, attach ALL documents MSWord (.doc) or Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) files to Yola Pakhchanian at [yolap@aheworld.org] with the subject line **AHIF STUDENT TRIP APPLICANT: [Your Name]**. The letters or recommendation and transcripts can be emailed directly with the same subject line.

Mail	Email	
✓	✓	Application Form (<i>Signed by student & both parents/guardians</i>)
✓	✓	Extended Stay Form (<i>Signed by student & both parents/guardians</i>)
✓	✓	\$500 Application Fee (<i>check or credit card</i>)
	✓	Current Resume - <i>Microsoft Word document only</i>
	✓	300-word statement & 150 word bio - <i>Microsoft Word document only</i>
	✓	Travel Agent Information Form (<i>Return date is required</i>)
	✓	2 letters of Recommendation
	✓	College Transcripts
	✓	A photocopy of your health insurance card (<i>front & back</i>)
	✓	Recent high-resolution color headshot (<i>at least 300 dpi in jpg</i>)

- **MAIL ALL papers that need your signature: *Application* & *Extended Stay* forms and *check* to:**

Mrs. Yola Pakhchanian
 AHIF Foreign Policy Study Trip
American Hellenic Institute Foundation
 1220 16th Street, NW
 Washington, D.C. 20036

INTERVIEW

Phone interviews are an integral component of the application process. Yola Pakhchanian will contact you to arrange for an interview. Notification of selection decisions will be made by email to all applicants by mid-April.



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ESSAY

Submit a 300-word essay addressing the following questions:

1. How do you see yourself using this experience in the future to enhance your educational and career plans?
2. Is this your first trip to Greece and Cyprus?
3. What type of experience or work have you done in the past which make you a good candidate for this program?
4. Discuss your involvement in the Greek American community.

Your submission should be a word document only please.

SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Submit a 150-word *biographical paragraph* with your name, university, degree. Include future academic plans or projects and quote on how this trip will help you with your future plans. *Your submission should be a word document.*

See examples:



Giana Damianos, a Dean's List student at Indiana University, is majoring in Economics and Political Science and minoring in Psychology. Giana is a rising junior and has been named a 2017 award recipient by the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation. On campus, Giana is involved with the Hellenic Student Association, and is a member of the Mock Trial Team. Outside of IU, Giana spent a summer studying abroad in Athens through the *AHEPA Journey to Greece* program which allowed her the opportunity to grow her awareness of Hellenic influence. This passion has since inspired her to pursue Modern Greek language courses while at school. "Through the AHIF Foreign Policy Trip, I hope to gain as much exposure to Greece as I can – the language, the people,

the political and economic structures – everything. I hope this program will provide the platform for me to pursue a career that contributes to the welfare of Greek people." Giana intends to return to Greece for an extended study term to continue this goal. Ultimately, she hopes to attend law school after graduating.



Stavros Piperis, a rising junior at Boston College, is studying Political Science and is a member of the department's Honors Program. He was acknowledged as a Sophomore Scholar of 2017 for showing outstanding potential in his chosen major, and has studied Modern Greek for two years. Beyond academics, Stavros has devoted much of his time to civic engagement and illuminating the Hellenic experience in the U.S. As the Co-President of the Boston College Hellenic Society, he created and organized the Greek America Lecture Series, a three-part speaker series devoted to sharing the stories of prominent Greek Americans and statesmen. The project brought Governor Michael Dukakis, Ambassador R. Nicholas Burns and Nicholas Gage to speak at Boston College. "I am thrilled about the opportunity to participate in the AHIF trip. The chance to observe Greek American

political relations so closely would both provide a deeper understanding of international civics and highlight the common ground between America and Hellenism," Stavros said.